

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
for the
PVJ Timber Sale and Fuel Treatments Environmental Assessment
EA #OR-014-07-01

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA), has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and analyzed alternatives to conduct a variety of treatments within the PVJ Timber Sale analysis area on BLM lands. The EA considered five alternatives. Three alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they would not meet the objectives outlined in the Purpose and Need section of the EA (page 3) and/or would not conform to management direction from the KFRA Resource Management Plan (RMP). The two alternatives analyzed in detail include the Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative. Treatments included in the Proposed Action Alternative, described in detail in the EA, are summarized as follows:

Matrix Vegetation Treatments:

- Density Management thinning (Commercial timber harvest) would occur on up to 850 acres in Sections 7, 9, 10, and 15 of T. 41 S., R. 7 E. and Section 1 of T. 41 S., R. 6 E., W.M.
- Approximately 1.3 million board feet (MMBF) of timber would be harvested.

Fuels Treatments:

- Fuel reduction (Post Harvest) in the Matrix through prescribed fire, biomass, and thinning on up to 1,221 acres. (This figure includes the same acres treated with Density Management harvest prescription above.)

Road Treatments

- Road improvement (resurfacing) – approximately 1.3 miles
- Spot rocking – approximately 2.5 miles
- Road renovation (grading and brushing/road maintenance) – approximately 6.3 miles
- Road decommissioning (blocking) – approximately 0.6 miles
- Road obliteration – approximately 2.4 miles
- New road construction – approximately 0.2 miles

The proposed action and no action alternatives were analyzed for significant effects as per the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations - 40 CFR § 1508.27. The following criteria listed under 40 CFR § 1508.27(b) were considered and found to be not applicable to this action: significant beneficial or adverse effects; significant effects on public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; anticipated cumulatively significant impacts; highly uncertain or unknown risks; and precedents for future actions with significant effects.

The following unique characteristics (Critical Elements of the Human Environment), listed in 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(3), are not present and will not be affected: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs); prime or unique farmlands; floodplains; wilderness; solid or hazardous waste; and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

In regard to 40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(8), no adverse impacts are expected to cultural, scientific, or historical resources. The proposed area has been surveyed for cultural resources using BLM Class III survey methods. Surveys for cultural resources were conducted and known sites will be avoided. There are no sites, structures or objects listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

There will be no significant impacts to any special status species or habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act [40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(9)]. Surveys of the proposed treatment area were conducted for Threatened and Endangered species and special status species. Refer to the analysis on pages 16 through 26 of the EA for a discussion of survey protocols and results. Implementation of mitigations and project design features (Appendix B of the EA) as part of the proposed action would be sufficient to avoid significant impacts to potential habitat for special status species.

As per 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(10), this action conforms with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

The action is consistent with Executive Order 12898 which addresses Environmental Justice. No potential impacts to low-income or minority populations have been identified internally by the BLM or externally through public notification and involvement. Consultation with local tribal governments has not identified any unique or special resources providing religious, employment, subsistence or recreation opportunities. Employment would involve local contractors who engage in similar types of work throughout Klamath County and the state of Oregon.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider effects of this decision on National Energy Policy. There will be no known adverse effect on National Energy Policy. Within the project area there are no known energy resources with commercial potential and energy producing or processing facilities.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the environmental assessment, it is my determination that neither alternative analyzed constitutes a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment greater than those addressed in the following:

- Final - Klamath Falls Resource Area Management Plan and EIS (FEIS), 1994
- Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary, 1995 (KFRA ROD/RMP)
- Klamath Falls Resource Area Integrated Weed Control Plan Environmental Assessment, July 21, 1993
- Aquatic Conservation Strategy Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision 2004 (ACS/ROD)
- 2007 Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.

I have determined that this action will not have any significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and an environmental impact statement is not required. I have further determined that the proposed action conforms to management direction from the Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, as amended. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement, or a supplement to the existing RMP or Environmental Impact Statement, is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Signed: /s/ Donald J. Holmstrom
Donald J. Holmstrom, Field Manager
Klamath Falls Resource Area

Date: 7/29/08